

Portland State University

**PDXScholar**

---

Book Publishing Final Research Paper

English

---

Spring 2021

# Woman Turned Warrior: An Analysis on the Strong Female Character Trope and the Influence it has on Gender Stereotypes Through the Use of Back Cover Copy

Alexandria Gonzales  
*Portland State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng\\_bookpubpaper](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng_bookpubpaper)



Part of the [Children's and Young Adult Literature Commons](#), and the [Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in Communication Commons](#)

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

## Recommended Citation

Gonzales, Alexandria, "Woman Turned Warrior: An Analysis on the Strong Female Character Trope and the Influence it has on Gender Stereotypes Through the Use of Back Cover Copy" (2021). *Book Publishing Final Research Paper*. 55.

[https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng\\_bookpubpaper/55](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng_bookpubpaper/55)

This Paper is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Book Publishing Final Research Paper by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: [pdxscholar@pdx.edu](mailto:pdxscholar@pdx.edu).

# WOMAN TURNED WARRIOR

An analysis on the strong female character trope  
and the influence it has on gender stereotypes  
through the use of back cover copy



**ALEXANDRIA GONZALES**

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BOOK PUBLISHING  
SPRING 2021

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**3** RESEARCH QUESTION

**4** ABSTRACT

**5** LITERATURE REVIEW

**8** METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

**9** DATA & FINDINGS

12 Word Frequency

13 Gendered Word Analysis

14 Thematic Coding

**15** DISCUSSION

**16** FUTURE RESEARCH

**17** CONCLUSION

**18** ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**19** BIBLIOGRAPHY

**i** APPENDICES

ii Appendix A - Book Descriptions

xxi Appendix B - Gendered Word List

xxiv Appendix C - Gender Bias Coding

# RESEARCH QUESTION

How do publishers use back cover book descriptions to market the Strong Female Character trope in young adult fantasy and science fiction, and how does this reinforce gender stereotypes?



# ABSTRACT

This research paper analyzes the language of young adult fantasy back cover copy and how the language is used within the Strong Female Character trope that is often found in fantasy fiction. The paper also looks at the influence this trope has on perpetuating gender stereotypes. This was done through the use of content analysis—word frequency, gendered word analysis, and thematic coding. Gendered word analysis provides qualitative evidence for the presence of gendered language in back cover descriptions, while word frequency and thematic coding provide additional context. The research found that there is a bias toward portraying women characters with more masculine-gendered language in order to depict them as heroes, resulting in an influence on the way society views traditionally feminine qualities. Media reflects the biases society has by using tropes. In order to change this way of writing women, work has to be done to change society's way of thinking about women.



# LITERATURE REVIEW

In 1956, an American Quarterly article by Albert Van Nostrand began discussing the effect a new concept called “marketing” was having on selling books. He said when it came to marketing a book, the novel “must be presented in such a way that people who will probably not read it can nevertheless sell it” (Van Nostrand, 1956). He goes on to talk about how the vocabulary used for the book indicates the importance of marketing to the publisher. Language plays a part in the literature as a commodity (Van Nostrand, 1956). A few decades later, marketing is a vital part of book sales. A part of the process that publishers cannot survive without. One of the marketing tools used in publishing is the back cover copy of a book. According to Friedman, “the back cover copy you write for your book is among the most important marketing messages you’ll craft” because it displays the book’s best features in just a few paragraphs (Friedman, 2016).

Marketing is one of the most important aspects of book sales. Back cover descriptions are one of the many tools marketers use to get readers to buy a book. Kerry Spencer’s research uses a method of determining the effect of marketing on a sample of books. “Creative writers are often told there is little relationship between the marketing of books and their sales” (Spencer, 2017). However, the literature shows a strong linear relationship between marketing and sales in the United States young adult fiction market. Spencer’s research says the relationship between marketing and sales is consistent over time. And, there is reason to assume the importance of marketing is growing (2017). This finding contradicts what authors are often told when being published, that marketing and sales are not correlated (Spencer, 2017). Spencer’s research highlights the importance of marketing when it comes to sales. All aspects of marketing need to be considered, including back cover descriptions. Back cover copy is one of the first things a consumer will look at when deciding whether or not to buy a book. So it is important to remember that readers are influenced by the descriptions.

Basturkmen’s research backs up Friedman and Spencer’s research that back cover copy is important to readers. Within his research, he thinks of blurbs as more than just praise and acclamation. He states that blurbs “represent something deeper, something indicative of the assumed values of the readers” (Basturkmen, 2009). Publishers see back cover descriptions as a marketing opportunity to promote the book and persuade consumers to buy it. Research into the use of back cover copy by readers is limited. However, a study done by Grupetta (2008) found that when children examined fiction books, “a third of the children looked first at the back cover blurb (most looked first at the front cover image and title) and that nearly two-thirds rated blurbs as very important in their decision making” (Basturkmen, 2009).

Basturkmen goes on to discuss the importance of a blurb appealing to the values of the target audience. “Unless the readers can see the connections between the content of the work and their own values, unless they can identify what is being put out on display with their own interests, they are unlikely to select the work however brilliant the content or the writer or however rich the praise” (Basturkmen, 2009). This is important to note because it goes to show how important the use of language in back cover copy is as a marketing tool, and how this influences readers to buy and read the books. Because of the influence language has on potential buyers, publishers need to understand how they talk about female characters is important and can influence the young adult market in a negative or positive way.

So, we have established that marketing is important, but how do the back cover descriptions influence readers and perpetuate gender stereotypes? In the chapter, “Glass and Game: The Speculative Girl Hero” from the book, *New Directions in Popular Fiction*, Driscoll and Heatwole look into the significance of the action-oriented girl hero that has become popular in children and young adult fiction. They describe this girl hero as the following: “She is not only resilient but willfully determined; while she will take responsibility for others, she decides which others and under what conditions. She is brave, resourceful, and in the end powerfully effective when seeking her own ends; where she is self-sacrificing, she chooses action for the greater good comprehending what it costs her. She may be proud but she rejects vanity and, quite explicitly, any suggestion that commodified femininity will represent or enable her capacities; she is the agent of her own aspirations and seeks to modify the actions of others to suit her own” (Driscoll & Heatwole, 2016). This literature looks at how fiction girl protagonists differ from the popular “girl hero” today, and how certain virtues are represented in popular fiction.

Driscoll and Heatwole “acknowledge that girl-oriented fiction is ‘often criticized for plot resolution that reinforces conventional notions of gender,’ but insists that it also promotes ‘the necessity for girls to gain control over their own lives by embracing their gifts, to engage in self-definition, and to use their empowerment to challenge oppressive social structures’” (2016). Today’s girl action hero is a product of feminism. However, this type of character should not be read as an answer to all female characters, and especially not as the end of feminism in fiction. While she is a step in the right direction, there are a lot of ways in which female characters can be improved. The literature below goes more in-depth about the Strong Female Character trope and why she sometimes reinforces gender stereotypes and the gender binary. An interesting finding this chapter talks about that is worth mentioning is how the speculative girl hero often finishes her “quest on the other side of a strange aporia.

The girl's story is completed in an imagination of future motherhood that radically displaces her" (Driscoll & Heatwole, 2016). Another aspect of this literature is that girl heroes are "often placed in visualised scenes of judgment, where what she knows and how she acts are subordinated to what she looks like" (Driscoll & Heatwole, 2016). These observations lead us into the next article that explains more in-depth about the gender stereotypes the Strong Female Character trope perpetuates.

What is a Strong Female Character? "The Strong Female Character trope often shows us the 'underlying deficit of respect the character starts with, which she's then required to overcome by whatever desperate, over-the-top, cartoonish means to hand'—just to bring herself up to the man's level." (Cristea, 2015). There is no such thing as a Strong Male Character, it is just assumed that the male characters are inherently strong. This is largely due to the patriarchal society we live in. Often when a female character is described as being "strong," we associate her traits to masculine ideas of strength—power, aggression, warrior. While portraying Strong Female Characters is not a bad thing, it is problematic because when focusing on creating strong women, this is often the only definition that is fixated on. Because of this, authors, readers, and everyone in between come to expect a certain type of woman character. "If we're constantly expecting these strong women to be – let's face it – female incarnations of our rudimentary SFF heroes (traditionally and typically male). How are we supposed to really start demonstrating realistic characters? This is a problem on all sides of the gender spectrum: the concepts of masculine and feminine need to be pared down to basics in order to utilise them correctly. As concepts instead of labels that are rigidly applied. But it's complicated and people prefer simple." (Cristea, 2015).

When readers think of a Strong Female Character, they often think of a leather-clad woman with dark hair haphazardly pulled out of her face, a bow and arrow strapped to one shoulder, and a knife strapped to her thigh. She is looking over her shoulder and you can tell in her eyes that she has a dark and checkered past. This is only one definition of what strong means. The warrior woman. The girl action hero. "Never mind the fact that she is catering to a "mostly" male-appreciated aesthetic" (Cristea, 2015). And while women do like to see themselves in these badass characters they can only dream of becoming, these characters are "essentially speaking for or to women" (Cristea, 2015). It is perfectly fine for women to appreciate themselves in this physical sense, and see themselves as warriors in fiction. The bigger problem is that readers begin to view this type of character as the standard woman character. She is not the only woman out there saving the world.



# METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

For this research, I used content analysis, thematic coding, and word frequency to analyze the language of back cover copy to display how publishers and marketers portray Strong Female Characters. I looked to identify patterns in the language and communication that indicate the Strong Female Character trope within the book descriptions and how language has the ability to influence and reinforce traditional gender stereotypes. This research was qualitative because I focused on interpreting and understanding the use of language in the back cover copy. By using these methods, I hoped to gain a more qualitative understanding of the pervasive gender stereotypes and gender binary within the Strong Female Character trope, and explain how we can progress past the limitations that feminine and masculine binaries present in the first place. Content analysis and thematic coding were revealed to be the best way to go about looking at the back cover descriptions. Since I analyzed the language and there was no direct involvement of participants, the results will not be as biased. This type of research was flexible with the current situation our world is in right now, allowing me to collect data without delays due to COVID-19.

## SAMPLE SIZE

Samples were taken from NPD BookScan Bestseller data. The following criteria were followed when choosing top Young Adult (YA) Fantasy titles.

1. Titles taken from the year-to-date bestseller lists from 2010 to 2021.
2. The top five young adult fantasy books were taken from each year.
3. To determine the top YA Fantasies:
  - a. Searched for Juvenile Fiction from 2010-2016 and Young Adult Fiction from 2017-2021 (Young Adult Fiction was not a category in NPD BookScan until 2017).
  - b. Looked at the metadata for each bestseller for the subcategory labeled: Science Fiction/Fantasy/Magic - YAF.
  - c. The age requirement for the titles to be considered Young Adult is 12 years old to 18 years old. I got this requirement from young adult fiction which refers to books written for readers roughly between the ages of 12 and 18 (MasterClass, 2020). This age is typically used for YA fiction and reflects the reading level, worldview, thematic interests, and maturity of readers.
  - d. Titles were excluded if they were sequels of series, novellas, or showed up multiple times on the bestseller list from previous years.

After going through the data, I ended up with 60 books in my sample.

## LIMITATIONS

There are a few limitations readers should be aware of in this research. First, there are a few disadvantages to content analysis. One of these limitations is that focusing on keywords and phrases out of context can sometimes disregard the nuanced and ambiguous meanings that language often has. Also, content analysis can be subjective at times because of the interpretive nature of the research method.

I collected my data from NPD BookScan because it was the most accurate and comprehensive source for finding bestsellers in specific categories. However, not every Science Fiction / Fantasy / Magic - YAF Titles are labeled as such in BookScan which may skew the data slightly. Secondly, many small or independent presses do not have all their information about sales in BookScan. Because of this, many books published by these presses may not be included even if they were among the top young adult fantasy books.

## DATA & FINDINGS

### TOP SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY / MAGIC - YAF TITLES IN NPD BOOKSCAN

#### 2010

- Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief*
- James Patterson, *Witch & Wizard*
- Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight*
- Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*
- Lauren Kate, *Fallen*

#### 2011

- Rick Riordan, *The Heroes of Olympus, Book One The Lost Hero*
- Rick Riordan, *The Red Pyramid*
- J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- Ally Condie, *Matched*
- Pittacus Lore, *I Am Number Four*

#### 2012

- Ransom Riggs, *Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children*
- Amanda Hocking, *Switched*
- James Dashner, *The Maze Runner: Book One*
- Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
- Christopher Paolini, *Eragon: Book I*

#### 2013

- J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit: or There and Back Again*
- Veronica Roth, *Divergent*
- Kami Garcia, *Beautiful Creatures*
- Cassandra Clare, *City of Bones*
- Madeleine L'engle, *A Wrinkle In Time*

## 2014

- Richelle Mead, *Vampire Academy*
- Brandon Mull, *Spirit Animals: Book 1: Wild Born*
- Marie Lu, *Legend*
- Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*
- Cassandra Clare, *Clockwork Angel*

## 2015

- Cassandra Clare, *The Bane Chronicles*
- Madeleine Roux, *Asylum*
- Joseph Delaney, *The Last Apprentice: Seventh Son: Book 1 and Book 2*
- Amanda Hocking, *Frostfire: the Kanin Chronicles (From the World of the Trylle)*
- Marissa Meyer, *Cinder: Book One of the Lunar Chronicles*

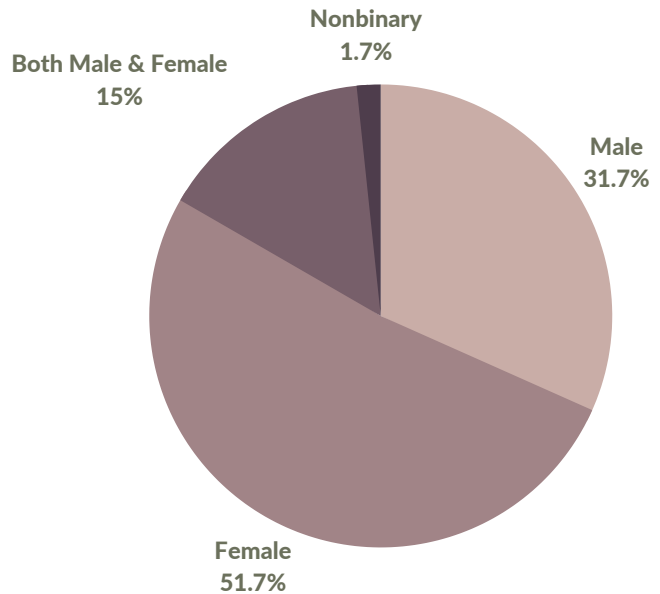
## 2016

- Rick Yancey, *The 5th Wave*
- Rick Riordan, *The Sword of Summer*
- Victoria Aveyard, *Red Queen*
- Kiera Cass, *The Siren*
- Claudia Gray, *Journey to Star Wars: the Force Awakens Lost Stars*

## 2017

- Marissa Meyer, *Heartless*
- Patrick Ness, *A Monster Calls: Inspired By an Idea from Siobhan Dowd*
- E. K. Johnston, *Star Wars: Ahsoka*
- Kendare Blake, *Three Dark Crowns*
- Neal Shusterman, *Scythe, Volume 1*

# MAIN CHARACTER GENDER



# AUTHOR GENDER

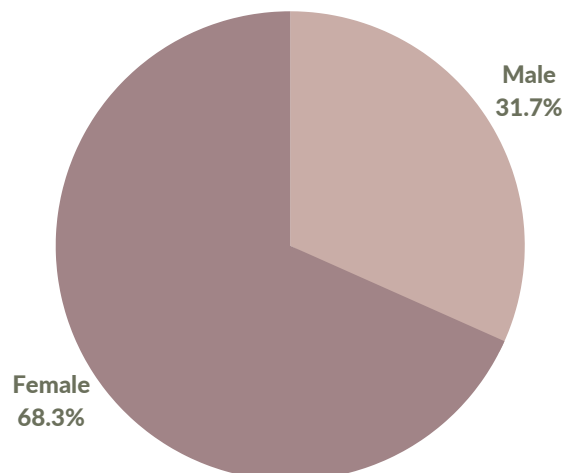
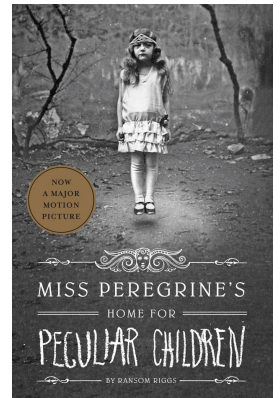
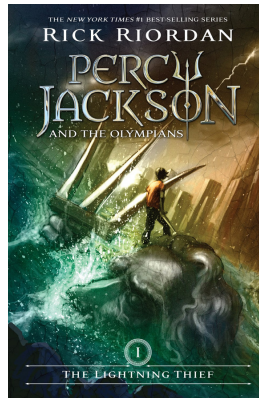


Figure 1 - Pie charts of main character gender versus author gender based on data from NPD Bookscan.

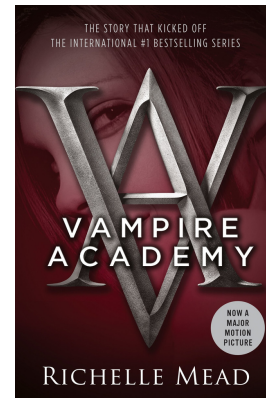
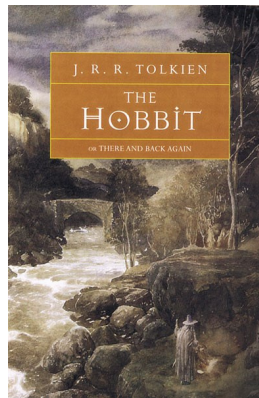
## 2018

- Holly Black, *The Cruel Prince*
- David Levithan, *Every Day*
- Sara Holland, *Everless*
- Philip Pullman, *The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage* (Book of Dust, Volume 1)
- Kerri Maniscalco, *Stalking Jack the Ripper*



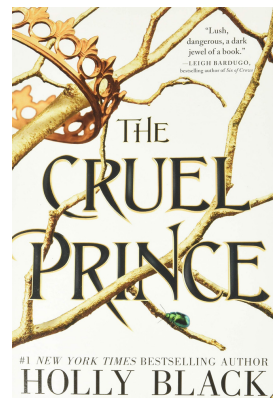
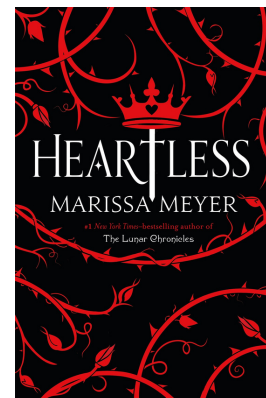
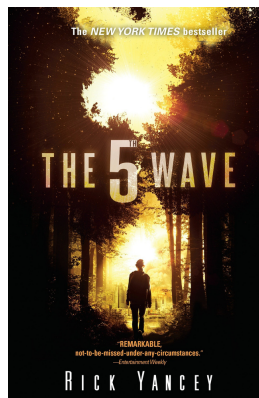
## 2019

- Christopher Paolini, *The Fork, the Witch, and the Worm: Volume 1, Eragon*
- Leigh Bardugo, *King of Scars*
- Tomi Adeyemi, *Children of Blood and Bone*
- Kiersten White, *Slayer, Volume 1*
- Roshani Chokshi, *The Gilded Wolves*



## 2020

- Annie Matthew, *Legacy and the Queen*
- Adam Silvera, *Infinity Son*
- Shelby Mahurin, *Serpent & Dove*
- Natasha Ngan, *Girls of Paper and Fire*
- Thomas Wheeler, *Cursed*



## 2021

- Alexandra Bracken, *Lore*
- Leigh Bardugo, *Six of Crows*
- Leigh Bardugo, *Shadow and Bone*
- Tracy Wolff, *Crave*
- Sarah J. Maas, *Throne of Glass*

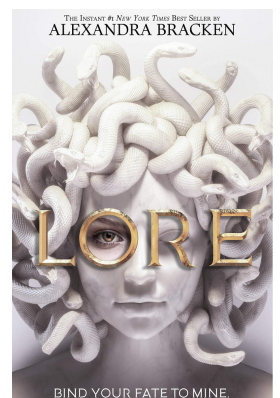
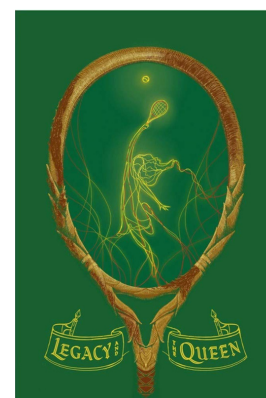
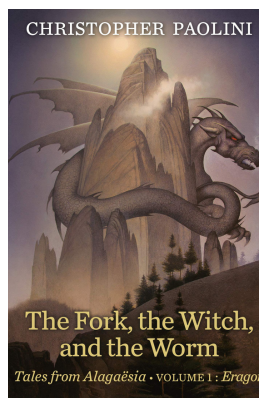


Figure 2 - Collection of top YA fantasy and science fiction book covers from each year, data collected from NPD Bookscan and Edelweiss.





## Gendered Word Analysis

In addition to the bubble graph from Voyant, I also quantified the gendered language in the book cover descriptions. I used the same 60 descriptions that I have been analyzing in this study. The book descriptions were run through two word lists, one with masculine-gendered words and one with feminine-gendered words. The total word count of each description, total number of masculine words, total number of feminine words, and corresponding gendered weight and percentages were calculated for each sample. Each word was assigned a value: -1 for feminine words, +1 for masculine words (Gaucher et al., 2011).

In this method, I used the gendered lists from Emma Hovely's research paper on "Gendered Language in Book Copy." This list of feminine- and masculine-gendered language was established from Hovely's independent linguistics and gender research. Proper nouns, concrete nouns, common nouns, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions were omitted (2019). The two lists used in this research can be found in Appendix B.

I expected the book descriptions to have more masculine-gendered language because of the Strong Female Character trope often seen in young adult fantasy fiction. The Strong Female Character trope usually requires the main female character to take on more masculine traits and reject more feminine traits. This method allowed me to see what words are being used to describe the female main characters and their stories. The results for the content analysis are below. A full list of all results are available in Appendix C.

The total word count for the book descriptions is 8,339. The total male bias is 191 or 2.29%. The total female bias is -113 or -1.36%. The total gender bias score was 78 or 0.94%.

	Word Count	Male Bias	Female Bias	Gender Bias	Male Bias %	Female Bias %	Gender Bias %
TOTALS	8339	191	-113	78	2.29%	-1.36%	0.94%

Most of the book descriptions contained masculine coded language within them, even when the main character was a female. This is consistent with my observation that female main characters in young adult fantasy have to reject their femininity to become the heroes of the story. In this back cover copy, the language cultivates an association with all things masculine—power, aggression, etc.—showing that women cannot be feminine and a warrior at the same time. She must choose one or the other, supporting negative gender stereotypes with feminine figures in fiction. While frustrating, this use of language is unlikely to change because marketers and publishers believe it is effective.

## Thematic Coding

Thematic coding will allow the research to dive deeper into the context behind the masculine- and feminine-gendered language used in the back cover copy.

As I looked through each book description and started thematic coding, I noticed there were a lot of similar themes, specifically with books that had female main characters. Often, the back cover copy would describe how the woman and her society were under the control and/or serving some institution—usually the government—and they had to become some type of warrior to save the world. Some examples of this are the books, *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black and *The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage* by Philip Pullman. In *The Cruel Prince*, the sentence, “As Jude becomes more deeply embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, she discovers her own capacity for trickery and bloodshed” implying that she had had to learn to manipulate and kill people in order to save herself, her sisters, and the world she lives in. In *The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage*, the back cover copy talks about how the main character, Nina, wants to become a healer because she has never been violent. However, later on, it says she has to change her lifestyle and become a more violent and fierce person because she has been “chosen” and needs to save the person she loves.

While this is a popular plot, the nuance here is in the part where the women have to become more masculine in order to defeat the big bad. Why couldn't Nina rely on her strengths as a healer to save the person she loves? Why does she have to become something she is not? This plotline did not happen with the male main characters. Male main characters were often already prepared to defeat the big bad and did not have to go through a transformation. This shows that women are often expected to take the traits men typically have if they want to win.

Another theme I noticed in the books with female main characters was the notion that the main character was often described as being “not like other girls.” A few examples of this are from *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and *Slayer* by Kiersten White.

- “Into every generation a Slayer is born... Nina and her twin sister, Artemis, are far from normal.”
- “Lena Duchannes is unlike anyone the small Southern town of Gatlin has ever seen.”

While this phrase sounds like a good thing, it is actually used to tear other women down. It is also usually used when a woman is not into traditionally feminine activities like shopping, makeup, dresses, etc. This leads to conversations about how feminine attributes are seen as

inherently bad in our society.

The phrase, “not like other girls,” “relies on diminishing the rest of the female population. It tells the receiver her gender is bad, but since she is different from the rest, she is good” (More, 2020). It is interesting that this phrase came up a lot thematically in my research because this theme is exactly what I was looking for—women who take on more masculine traits are seen as heroes while women who are more feminine are deemed weak. It goes to show that the female main characters in these books are seen as “different from other girls” because they behave more stereotypically like men.

The last pattern I observed was how the women characters would often have to decide between sacrificing her loved ones to save the world or be with those she loves but don’t become a hero. This be-a-hero-or-be-with-loved-ones trope is common in the book descriptions that have female main characters, but not in those that have male main characters. In fact, only one book description with a male main character even mentioned the word “love.” Now, this could be because there are more books with female main characters than male ones, but I thought it was an interesting theme found within the descriptions. I have included a few quotes from the book descriptions that best depict this theme.

- “But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.” *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- “Bryn is sent in to help stop him, but will she lose her heart in the process?” *Switched* by Amanda Hocking
- “Her forbidden romance becomes enmeshed with an explosive plot that threatens her world’s entire way of life. Lei, still the wide-eyed country girl at heart, must decide how far she’s willing to go for justice and revenge.” *Girls of Paper and Fire* by Natasha Ngan

## DISCUSSION

It is clear to see through the thematic coding, word frequency, and gendered word analysis that the relationship between female characters and masculine-gendered language is prevalent in the back cover copy in young adult fantasy. The gendered word analysis exposes the pervasive use of masculine-gendered language in book copy, regardless of the gender of the main character or who it is being marketed to. The persistent positive associations with masculine-gendered language imply how women in books often have to give up their more feminine qualities to be respected enough to save the world. The



thematic coding research also strengthens this argument because of the similar themes found throughout each of the book descriptions. It was especially interesting to see the differences in theme between books with male main characters versus female main characters.

Often, books with male main characters had themes surrounding how they were already ready to save the world. Whereas women had to work harder to get to that same point—oftentimes becoming a completely new person, usually against what their original personality was. Gendered language reinforces these negative stereotypes of what men and women have to be in order to succeed. Feminine-gendered language is often seen as inferior or something that needs to be “thrown away” for the more masculine-gendered language. The article, “Dispelling the Myth of Strong Female Characters,” agrees with my previous conclusion, stating, “men and women alike embrace some traditional feminine roles while rejecting others. At no point do we feel the need to act as masculine warrior types in order to prove our validity as human beings to others. If women in real life can be such multifaceted creatures, they should also be so in fiction” (Leigh, 2016).

## FUTURE RESEARCH

- Future research into this topic might go more in-depth into the themes, story, and character arcs in each book. Expanding in this direction would be interesting to see because it would get the whole context behind each book. Since I looked at the back cover copy only, I might not have gotten the full picture.
- It also might be worth taking a look into books that are not just in the top five each year. Typically, independent and small presses will put out more diverse books than the Big Five. Doing the same investigation I did, but with small presses would be a worthwhile comparison to make.
- As the world gets more diverse, our books are also getting more and more diverse. Additional research could also be done into genderedness to include more nonbinary gender identities. Nonbinary word lists like I used in my Gendered Word Analysis section would have completely different words within the list. I’m not even sure there are any nonbinary word lists out there. Creating one and analyzing more YA Fantasy books with LGBTQ+ characters would be something that could be compelling research.
- Lastly, research into the way language is used for BIPOC female main characters would also be beneficial to display the variety of ways in which women of color are portrayed compared to white women, as this research does not go into detail about those differences.

# CONCLUSION

It is important to remember that “popular media reflects and reinforces societal biases through the use of tropes” (Gala & Dhruvil, 2020). Because popular media is reflecting society, changing the way these tropes are portrayed often starts with changing the way our society thinks about them. This is not going to be accomplished quickly or easily. This type of thought change will take years and years, and it will still probably never be perfect.

This research shows there is a bias toward portraying women characters with more masculine-gendered language. However, about 25 years ago, this was the opposite. According to Sanders (1996), it was important to emphasize more masculine-centered values like courage and honor in fantasy fiction, especially by portraying female characters with those traits. Back in 1996, this was a change in how women were being written because there needed to be more representation of “strong female characters.” Now that society is changing again, there is another shift that should happen, and that is embracing traditionally feminine qualities as heroic. I’m not saying there shouldn’t be women characters that are warriors. There should be. But there should also be women depicted as heroes through the use of their traditionally feminine qualities. These qualities shouldn’t be demonized or portrayed as weak and un-heroic. All humans are complicated and complex, women included, and they should be represented as such in fiction.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank my family and friends for always being there for me through this wild ride. Thank you to my mom, Kimberly, and my dad, Mark, for your unending support in everything I do. Thank you to my sisters, Isabel and Ciarra for FaceTiming me almost every day and giving your honest opinions, even when I don't want to hear them. And, lastly, thank you to my friends, Alix, Bailey, Emma, Grace, Hannah, and Mary for the late-night conversations, laughs, and love. I couldn't have gotten through this without all of you.



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cristea, Leo Elijah. "Gender and Stereotyping in Fantasy – Part One: Strong Women."

FantasyFaction RSS, June 5, 2015. <http://fantasy-faction.com/2015/gender-and-stereotyping-in-fantasy-part-one-strong-women>.

Friedman, Jane. "Compelling Back Cover Copy: Not Too Little and Not Too Much."

IngramSpark, April 28, 2016. <https://www.ingramspark.com/blog/back-cover-copy#:~:text=The%20back%20cover%20copy%20you,marketing%20messages%20you'll%20craft.&text=It%20typically%20serves%20as%20the,fashioned%20for%20dozens%20of%20purposes>.

Gala, Dhruvil, Mohammad Omar Khursheed, Hannah Lerner, Brendan O'Connor, and Mohit Iyyer. "Analyzing Gender Bias within Narrative Tropes." Proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on Natural Language Processing and Computational Social Science, November 2020. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2020.nlpccs-1.23>.

Gaucher, Danielle, Justin Friesen, and Aaron C. Kay. "Evidence That Gendered Wording in Job Advertisements Exists and Sustains Gender Inequality." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 101, no. 1 (2011): 109–28. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022530>.

Gelder, Ken, Catherine Driscoll, and Alexandra Heatwole. "Glass and Game: The Speculative Girl Hero." Essay. In *New Directions in Popular Fiction Genre, Distribution, Reproduction*, 261–84. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016.

Grupetta, Chris. "Getting Them Hooked." *The Bookseller*. The Bookseller, November 6, 2008. <https://www.thebookseller.com/feature/getting-them-hooked>.

Hovley, Emma. "Gendered Language in Book Copy: An Examination of Gendered Language's Role in Book Marketing," 2019.

Hyland, K., and Helen Basturkmen. "Back Cover Blurbs: Puff Pieces and Windows on Cultural Values." Essay. In *Academic Evaluation*, 68–83. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Leigh, Megan. "Dispelling the Myth of Strong Female Characters." Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America, June 24, 2016.

<https://www.sfwawriters.org/2016/06/24/dispelling-myth-strong-female-characters/>.

MasterClass. "What's the Difference Between Middle-Grade Fiction vs. Young Adult Fiction M," November 8, 2020. <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/whats-the-difference-between-middle-grade-fiction-vs-young-adult-fiction#quiz-0>.

More, Miranda. "The Problem With Saying You're 'Not Like Other Girls.'" Medium. Write Like a Girl, June 19, 2020. <https://medium.com/write-like-a-girl/the-problem-with-saying-youre-not-like-other-girls-8ce0bf94d768>.

Sanders, Lynn Moss. "Girls Who Do Things: The Protagonists of Robin McKinley's Fantasy Fiction." The ALAN Review 24, no. 1 (1996). <https://doi.org/10.21061/alan.v24i1.a.7>.

Spencer, Kerry. "Marketing and Sales in the U.S. Young Adult Fiction Market." New Writing 14, no. 3 (2017): 429–43. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14790726.2017.1307419>.

Van Nostrand, Albert. "Making and Marketing Fiction." American Quarterly 8, no. 2 (1956): 147-54. Accessed April 9, 2021. doi:10.2307/2710162.

## Book Covers

Allied Integrated Marketing. "The 5th Wave." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9780142425831\\_3636a.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket_covers/original/9780142425831_3636a.jpg?width=1000).

Billelis. "Lore." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/TW/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781484778203\\_3a4b2.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/TW/images/jacket_covers/original/9781484778203_3a4b2.jpg?width=1000).

Feiwei & Friends. "Heartless." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/MM/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781250044655\\_6551e.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/MM/images/jacket_covers/original/9781250044655_6551e.jpg?width=1000).

Granity Studios. "The Legacy and the Queen." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/LN/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781949520033\\_f6008.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/LN/images/jacket_covers/original/9781949520033_f6008.jpg?width=1000).

Gregory, Emilian and Rosier, Fanelie. "Vampire Academy." Digital image. Edelweiss.

[https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781595141743\\_5aa7a.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket_covers/original/9781595141743_5aa7a.jpg?width=1000).

Knopf, Alfred A. "The Fork, the Witch, and the Worm." Digital image. Edelweiss.

[https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781984894861\\_5d842.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket_covers/original/9781984894861_5d842.jpg?width=1000).

Little Brown Books. "The Cruel Prince." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/TW/images/jacket_covers/original/9780316310284_21ea9.jpg?width=1000)

[images.azureedge.net/ea/TW/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9780316310284\\_21ea9.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/TW/images/jacket_covers/original/9780316310284_21ea9.jpg?width=1000).

Malak Abdelmuati. "The Bane Chronicles." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/SS/images/jacket_covers/original/9781442495999_a627b.jpg?width=1000)

[images.azureedge.net/ea/SS/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781442495999\\_a627b.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/SS/images/jacket_covers/original/9781442495999_a627b.jpg?width=1000).

Quirk Books. "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children." Digital image. Edelweiss.

[https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9781594744761\\_b61e7.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket_covers/original/9781594744761_b61e7.jpg?width=1000).

Rocco, John. "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/DY/images/jacket_covers/original/0786856297_710d2.jpg?width=1000)

[images.azureedge.net/ea/DY/images/jacket\\_covers/original/0786856297\\_710d2.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/DY/images/jacket_covers/original/0786856297_710d2.jpg?width=1000).

Rocco, John. "The Heroes of Olympus, Book One, The Lost Hero." Digital image. Edelweiss.

[https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9780307711779\\_5341e.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/RH/images/jacket_covers/original/9780307711779_5341e.jpg?width=1000).

Tolkein, J.R.R. "The Hobbit, or There and Back Again." Digital image. Edelweiss. [https://edel-](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/HM/images/jacket_covers/original/9780618002214.jpg?width=1000)

[images.azureedge.net/ea/HM/images/jacket\\_covers/original/9780618002214.jpg?width=1000](https://edel-images.azureedge.net/ea/HM/images/jacket_covers/original/9780618002214.jpg?width=1000).

# APPENDICES



# APPENDIX A

## 2010

*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends—one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena - Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

*Witch & Wizard* by James Patterson

The world is changing—the government has seized control of every aspect of society, and now kids are disappearing. For fifteen-year-old Wisty and her older brother Whit, life turns upside-down when they are hauled out of bed one night, separated from their parents, and thrown into a secret compound for no reason they can comprehend. The new government is clearly trying to suppress Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Being a Normal Teenager. Imprisoned together and condemned to death, Wisty and Whit begin exhibiting strange abilities and powers they never dreamed of. Maybe there is a reason they were singled out. Can this newly discovered witch and wizard master their skills in time to save themselves, their parents—and maybe the world?

*Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer

About three things I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was a part of him—and I didn't know how dominant that part might be—that thirsted for my blood. And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him. Deeply seductive and extraordinarily suspenseful, *Twilight* is a love story with bite.



*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Could you survive on your own in the wild, with everyone out to make sure you don't live to see the morning? In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before—and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weight survival against humanity and life against love.

*Fallen* by Lauren Kate

There's something achingly familiar about Daniel Grigori. Mysterious and aloof, he captures Luce Price's attention from the moment she sees him on her first day at the Sword & Cross boarding school in sultry Savannah, Georgia. He's the one bright spot in a place where cell phones are forbidden, the other students are all screw-ups, and security cameras watch every move. Even though Daniel wants nothing to do with Luce—and goes out of his way to make that very clear—she can't let it go. Drawn to him like a moth to a flame, she has to find out what Daniel is so desperate to keep secret... even if it kills her.

## 2011

*The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan

Since his mother's death six years ago, Carter Kane has been living out of a suitcase, traveling the globe with his father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. But while Carter's been homeschooled, his younger sister, Sadie, has been living with their grandparents in London. Sadie has just what Carter wants—school friends and a chance at a "normal" life. But Carter has just what Sadie longs for—time with their father. After six years of living apart, the siblings have almost nothing in common. Until now. On Christmas Eve, Sadie and Carter are reunited when their father brings them to the British Museum, with a promise that he's going to "make things right." But all does not go according to plan: Carter and Sadie watch as Julius summons a mysterious figure, who quickly banishes their father and causes a fiery explosion. Soon Carter and Sadie discover that the gods of Ancient Egypt are waking, and the worst of them—Set—has a frightening scheme. To save their father, they must embark on a dangerous journey—a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family and its links to the House of Life, a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

*The Heroes of Olympus* by Rick Riordan

JASON HAS A PROBLEM. He doesn't remember anything before waking up in a bus full of kids on a field trip. Apparently he has a girlfriend named Piper, and his best friend is a guy named Leo. They're all students at the Wilderness School, a boarding school for "bad kids," as Leo puts it. What did Jason do to end up here? And where is here, exactly? Jason doesn't know anything—except that everything seems very wrong. PIPER HAS A SECRET. Her father has been missing for three days, ever since she had that terrifying nightmare about his being in trouble. Piper doesn't understand her dream, or why her boyfriend suddenly doesn't recognize her. When a freak storm hits during the school trip, unleashing strange creatures and whisking her, Jason, and Leo away to someplace called Camp Half-Blood, she has a feeling she's going to find out, whether she wants to or not. LEO HAS A WAY WITH TOOLS. When he sees his cabin at Camp Half-Blood, filled with power tools and machine parts, he feels right at home. But there's weird stuff, too—like the curse everyone keeps talking about, and some camper who's gone missing. Weirdest of all, his bunkmates insist that each of them—including Leo—is related to a god. Does this have anything to do with Jason's amnesia, or the fact that Leo keeps seeing ghosts? Join new and old friends from Camp Half-Blood in this thrilling first book in *The Heroes of Olympus* series. Best-selling author Rick Riordan has pumped up the action, humor, suspense, and mystery in an epic adventure that will leave readers panting for the next installment.

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter's life is miserable. His parents are dead and he's stuck with his heartless relatives, who force him to live in a tiny closet under the stairs. But his fortune changes when he receives a letter that tells him the truth about himself: he's a wizard. A mysterious visitor rescues him from his relatives and takes him to his new home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. After a lifetime of bottling up his magical powers, Harry finally feels like a normal kid. But even within the Wizarding community, he is special. He is the boy who lived: the only person to have ever survived a killing curse inflicted by the evil Lord Voldemort, who launched a brutal takeover of the Wizarding world, only to vanish after failing to kill Harry. Though Harry's first year at Hogwarts is the best of his life, not everything is perfect. There is a dangerous secret object hidden within the castle walls, and Harry believes it's his responsibility to prevent it from falling into evil hands. But doing so will bring him into contact with forces more terrifying than he ever could have imagined. Full of sympathetic characters, wildly imaginative situations, and countless exciting details, the first installment in the series assembles an unforgettable magical world and sets the stage for many high-stakes adventures to come.

*Matched* by Allie Condie

In the Society, officials decide. Who you love. Where you work. When you die. Cassia has always trusted their choices. It's hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one...until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen

*I Am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore

Nine of us came here. We look like you. We talk like you. We live among you. But we are not you. We can do things you dream of doing. We have powers you dream of having. We are stronger and faster than anything you have ever seen. We are the superheroes you worship in movies and comic books--but we are real. Our plan was to grow, and train, and become strong, and become one, and fight them. But they found us and started hunting us first. Now all of us are running. Spending our lives in shadows, in places where no one would look, blending in. We have lived among you without you knowing. But they know. They caught Number One in Malaysia. Number Two in England. And Number Three in Kenya. They killed them all. I am Number Four. I am next.

## **2012**

*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* will delight adults, teens, and anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.

*Switched* by Amanda Hocking

When Wendy Everly was six-years-old, her mother was convinced she was a monster and tried to kill her. It isn't until eleven years later that Wendy discovers her mother might have been right. With the help of Finn Holmes, Wendy finds herself in a world she never knew existed - a world both beautiful and frightening, and Wendy's not sure she wants to be a part of it.

*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

If you ain't scared, you ain't human. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade. Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive. Everything is going to change. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying. Remember. Survive. Run.

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. This movie tie-in edition features cover art from the movie and exclusive Q&A with members of the cast, including Taylor Swift, Brenton Thwaites and Cameron Monaghan.

*Eragon: Book 1* by Christopher Paolini

One boy... One dragon... A world of adventure. When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic, and power. With only an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon must navigate the dangerous terrain and dark enemies of an Empire ruled by a king whose evil knows no bounds. Can Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders? The fate of the Empire may rest in his hands.

## 2013

*The Hobbit: or There and Back Again* by J.R.R. Tolkien

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort.

*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. Together they must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations, some with devastating consequences. As initiation transforms them all, Tris must determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes exasperating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers unrest and growing conflict that threaten to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.

*Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia

Lena Duchannes is unlike anyone the small Southern town of Gatlin has ever seen, and she's struggling to conceal her power, and a curse that has haunted her family for generations. But even within the overgrown gardens, murky swamps and crumbling graveyards of the forgotten South, a secret cannot stay hidden forever. Ethan Wate, who has been counting the months until he can escape from Gatlin, is haunted by dreams of a beautiful girl he has never met. When Lena moves into the town's oldest and most infamous plantation, Ethan is inexplicably drawn to her and determined to uncover the connection between them. In a town with no surprises, one secret could change everything.

*A Wrinkle In Time* by Madeleine L'engle

It was a dark and stormy night. Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

*City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare

When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she hardly expects to witness a murder—much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. Then the body disappears into thin air. It's hard to call the police when the murderers are invisible to everyone else and when there is nothing—not even a smear of blood—to show that a boy has died. Or was he a boy? This is Clary's first meeting with the Shadowhunters, warriors dedicated to ridding the earth of demons. It's also her first encounter with Jace, a Shadowhunter who looks a little like an angel and acts a lot like a jerk. Within twenty-four hours Clary is pulled into Jace's world with a vengeance when her mother disappears and Clary herself is attacked by a demon. But why would demons be interested in ordinary mundanes like Clary and her mother? And how did Clary suddenly get the Sight? The Shadowhunters would like to know...

## **2014**

*Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead

ONLY A TRUE BEST FRIEND CAN PROTECT YOU FROM YOUR IMMORTAL ENEMIES...

Lissa Dragomir is a Moroi princess: a mortal vampire with a rare gift for harnessing the earth's magic. She must be protected at all times from Strigoi; the fiercest vampires - the ones who never die. The powerful blend of human and vampire blood that flows through Rose Hathaway, Lissa's best friend, makes her a dhampir. Rose is dedicated to a dangerous life of protecting Lissa from the Strigoi, who are hell-bent on making Lissa one of them. After two years of freedom, Rose and Lissa are caught and dragged back to St. Vladimir's Academy, a school for vampire royalty and their guardians-to-be, hidden in the deep forests of Montana. But inside the iron gates, life is even more fraught with danger... and the Strigoi are always close by. Rose and Lissa must navigate their dangerous world, confront the temptations of forbidden love, and never once let their guard down, lest the evil undead make Lissa one of them forever...

*Spirit Animals: Book 1: Wild Born* by Brandon Mull

Four children separated by vast distances all undergo the same ritual, watched by cloaked strangers. Four flashes of light erupt, and from them emerge the unmistakable shapes of incredible beasts - a wolf, a leopard, a panda, a falcon. Suddenly the paths of these children - and the world - have been changed for ever. Enter the world of Erdas, where every child who comes of age must discover if they have a spirit animal, a rare bond between human and beast that bestows great powers to both. A dark force has risen from distant and long-forgotten lands, and has begun an onslaught that will ravage the world. Now the fate of Erdas has fallen on the shoulders of four young strangers ...and on you.

*Legend* by Marie Lu

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths—until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast. But Ender is not the only result of the experiment. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Ender's two older siblings, Peter and Valentine, are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. While Peter was too uncontrollably violent, Valentine very nearly lacks the capability for violence altogether. Neither was found suitable for the military's purpose. But they are driven by their jealousy of Ender, and by their inbred drive for power. Peter seeks to control the political process, to become a ruler. Valentine's abilities turn more toward the subtle control of the beliefs of commoner and elite alike, through powerfully convincing essays. Hiding their youth and identities behind the anonymity of the computer networks, these two begin working together to shape the destiny of Earth—an Earth that has no future at all if their brother Ender fails.

*Clockwork Angel* by Cassandra Clare

In a time when Shadowhunters are barely winning the fight against the forces of darkness, one battle will change the course of history forever. Welcome to the *Infernal Devices* trilogy, a stunning and dangerous prequel to the New York Times bestselling *Mortal Instruments* series. The year is 1878. Tessa Gray descends into London's dark supernatural underworld in search of her missing brother. She soon discovers that her only allies are the demon-slaying Shadowhunters—including Will and Jem, the mysterious boys she is attracted to. Soon they find themselves up against the Pandemonium Club, a secret organization of vampires, demons, warlocks, and humans. Equipped with a magical army of unstoppable clockwork creatures, the Club is out to rule the British Empire, and only Tessa and her allies can stop them...



## 2015

*The Bane Chronicles* by Cassandra Clare

There are good reasons Peru is off-limits to Magnus Bane. Follow Magnus's Peruvian escapades as he drags his fellow warlocks Ragnor Fell and Catarina Loss into trouble, learns several instruments (which he plays shockingly), dances (which he does shockingly), and disgraces his host nation by doing something unspeakable to the Nazca Lines.

*Asylum* by Madeleine Roux

For sixteen-year-old Dan Crawford, New Hampshire College Prep is more than a summer program—it's a lifeline. An outcast at his high school, Dan is excited to finally make some friends in his last summer before college. But when he arrives at the program, Dan learns that his dorm for the summer used to be a sanatorium, more commonly known as an asylum. And not just any asylum—a last resort for the criminally insane. As Dan and his new friends, Abby and Jordan, explore the hidden recesses of their creepy summer home, they soon discover it's no coincidence that the three of them ended up here. Because the asylum holds the key to a terrifying past. And there are some secrets that refuse to stay buried. Featuring found photos of unsettling history and real abandoned asylums and filled with chilling mystery and page-turning suspense, Madeleine Roux's teen debut, *Asylum*, is a horror story that treads the line between genius and insanity.

*The Last Apprentice: Seventh Son: Book 1 and 2* by Joseph Delaney

The powers of evil are strengthening, and only one man holds them back. Now that man needs an apprentice. Tom Ward is the seventh son of a seventh son, and he has been chosen. When one of the world's most malevolent witches escapes, Tom will face his first test. Many apprentices have come before. They have failed, or fled, or died. If Tom succeeds—and if he survives—He'll be the last apprentice.

*Frostfire: the Kanin Chronicles* by Amanda Hocking

Bryn Aven is an outcast among the Kanin, the most powerful of the troll tribes. Set apart by her heritage and her past, Bryn is a tracker who's determined to become a respected part of her world. She has just one goal: become a member of the elite King's Guard to protect the royal family. She's not going to let anything stand in her way, not even a forbidden romance with her boss Ridley Dresden. But all her plans for the future are put on hold when Konstantin— a fallen hero she once loved — begins kidnapping changelings. Bryn is sent in to help stop him, but will she lose her heart in the process?



*Cinder* by Marissa Meyer

Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless Lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . . Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

## **2016**

*The Fifth Wave* by Rick Yancey

After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one. Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother-or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up.

*The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan

Magnus Chase has seen his share of trouble. Ever since that terrible night two years ago when his mother told him to run, he has lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, staying one step ahead of the police and the truant officers. One day, Magnus learns that someone else is trying to track him down—his uncle Randolph, a man his mother had always warned him about. When Magnus tries to outmaneuver his uncle, he falls right into his clutches. Randolph starts rambling about Norse history and Magnus's birthright: a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years. The more Randolph talks, the more puzzle pieces fall into place. Stories about the gods of Asgard, wolves, and Doomsday bubble up from Magnus's memory. But he doesn't have time to consider it all before a fire giant attacks the city, forcing him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents. . . . Sometimes, the only way to start a new life is to die.

*Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard

This is a world divided by blood—red or silver. The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of god-like superpowers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own. One that threatens to destroy the balance of power. Fearful of Mare's potential, the Silvers hide her in plain view, declaring her a long-lost Silver princess, now engaged to a Silver prince. Despite knowing that one misstep would mean her death, Mare works silently to help the Red Guard, a militant resistance group, and bring down the Silver regime. But this is a world of betrayal and lies, and Mare has entered a dangerous dance—Reds against Silvers, prince against prince, and Mare against her own heart.

*The Siren* by Kiera Cass

"You must never do anything that might expose our secret. This means that, in general, you cannot form close bonds with humans. You can speak to us, and you can always commune with the Ocean, but you are deadly to humans. You are, essentially, a weapon. A very beautiful weapon. I won't lie to you, it can be a lonely existence, but once you are done, you get to live. All you have to give, for now, is obedience and time..." The same speech has been given hundreds of times to hundreds of beautiful girls who enter the sisterhood of sirens. Kahlen has lived by these rules for years now, patiently waiting for the life she can call her own. But when Akinli, a human, enters her world, she can't bring herself to live by the rules anymore. Suddenly the life she's been waiting for doesn't seem nearly as important as the one she's living now.

*Journey to Star Wars: the Force Awakens Lost Stars* by Claudia Gray

This thrilling Young Adult novel gives readers a macro view of some of the most important events in the Star Wars universe, from the rise of the Rebellion to the fall of the Empire. Readers will experience these major moments through the eyes of two childhood friends--Ciena Ree and Thane Kyrell--who have grown up to become an Imperial officer and a Rebel pilot. Now on opposite sides of the war, will these two star-crossed lovers reunite, or will duty tear them--and the galaxy--apart? *Star Wars: Lost Stars* also includes all-new post-*Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* content, as well as hints and clues about the upcoming film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, making this a must-read for all Star Wars fans.

**2017**

*A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd* by Patrick Ness

Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.

*Heartless* by Marissa Meyer

Long before she was the terror of Wonderland—the infamous Queen of Hearts—she was just a girl who wanted to fall in love. Catherine may be one of the most desired girls in Wonderland, and a favorite of the unmarried King of Hearts, but her interests lie elsewhere. A talented baker, all she wants is to open a shop with her best friend. But according to her mother, such a goal is unthinkable for the young woman who could be the next queen. Then Cath meets Jest, the handsome and mysterious court joker. For the first time, she feels the pull of true attraction. At the risk of offending the king and infuriating her parents, she and Jest enter into an intense, secret courtship. Cath is determined to define her own destiny and fall in love on her terms. But in a land thriving with magic, madness, and monsters, fate has other plans.

*Star Wars: Ashoka* by E.K. Johnston

Fans have long wondered what happened to Ahsoka after she left the Jedi Order near the end of the Clone Wars, and before she re-appeared as the mysterious Rebel operative Fulcrum in *Rebels*. Finally, her story will begin to be told. Following her experiences with the Jedi and the devastation of Order 66, Ahsoka is unsure she can be part of a larger whole ever again. But her desire to fight the evils of the Empire and protect those who need it will lead her right to Bail Organa, and the Rebel Alliance....

*Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake

When kingdom come, there will be one. In every generation on the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets is born—three queens, all equal heirs to the crown and each possessor of a coveted magic. Mirabella is a fierce elemental, able to spark hungry flames or vicious storms at the snap of her fingers. Katharine is a poisoner, one who can ingest the deadliest poisons without so much as a stomachache. Arsinoe, a naturalist, is said to have the ability to bloom the reddest rose and control the fiercest of lions. But becoming the Queen Crowned isn't solely a matter of royal birth. Each sister has to fight for it. And it's not just a game of win or lose...it's life or death. The night the sisters turn sixteen, the battle begins. The last queen standing gets the crown.

*Scythe Volume 1* by Neal Shusterman

Thou shalt kill. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery. Humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

## 2018

### *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black

Of course I want to be like them. They're beautiful as blades forged in some divine fire. They will live forever. And Cardan is even more beautiful than the rest. I hate him more than all the others. I hate him so much that sometimes when I look at him, I can hardly breathe. Jude was seven when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King. To win a place at the Court, she must defy him—and face the consequences. As Jude becomes more deeply embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, she discovers her own capacity for trickery and bloodshed. But as betrayal threatens to drown the Courts of Faerie in violence, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself.

### *Every Day* by David Levithan

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone A wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

### *Everless* by Sara Holland

In the kingdom of Sempera, time is currency—extracted from blood, bound to iron, and consumed to add time to one's own lifespan. The rich aristocracy, like the Gerlings, tax the poor to the hilt, extending their own lives by centuries. No one resents the Gerlings more than Jules Ember. A decade ago, she and her father were servants at Everless, the Gerlings' palatial estate, until a fateful accident forced them to flee in the dead of night. When Jules discovers that her father is dying, she knows that she must return to Everless to earn more time for him before she loses him forever. But going back to Everless brings more danger—and temptation—than Jules could have ever imagined. Soon she's caught in a tangle of violent secrets and finds her heart torn between two people she thought she'd never see again. Her decisions have the power to change her fate—and the fate of time itself.

*The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage* by Phillip Pullman

Malcolm Polstead is the kind of boy who notices everything but is not much noticed himself. And so perhaps it was inevitable that he would become a spy...Malcolm's father runs an inn called the Trout, on the banks of the river Thames, and all of Oxford passes through its doors. Malcolm and his dæmon, Asta, routinely overhear news and gossip, and the occasional scandal, but during a winter of unceasing rain, Malcolm catches wind of something new: intrigue. He finds a secret message inquiring about a dangerous substance called Dust--and the spy it was intended for finds him. When she asks Malcolm to keep his eyes open, Malcolm sees suspicious characters everywhere; Lord Asriel, clearly on the run; enforcement agents from the Magisterium; an Egyptian named Coram with warnings just for Malcolm; and a beautiful woman with an evil monkey for a dæmon. All are asking about the same thing: a girl--just a baby--named Lyra. Lyra is the kind of person who draws people in like magnets. And Malcolm will brave any danger, and make shocking sacrifices, to bring her safely through the storm.

*Stalking Jack the Ripper* by Kerri Maniscalco

Seventeen-year-old Audrey Rose Wadsworth was born a lord's daughter, with a life of wealth and privilege stretched out before her. But between the social teas and silk dress fittings, she leads a forbidden secret life. Against her stern father's wishes and society's expectations, Audrey often slips away to her uncle's laboratory to study the gruesome practice of forensic medicine. When her work on a string of savagely killed corpses drags Audrey into the investigation of a serial murderer, her search for answers brings her close to her own sheltered world.

## **2019**

*King of Scars* by Leigh Bardugo

Face your demons... or feed them. The dashing young king, Nikolai Lantsov, has always had a gift for the impossible. No one knows what he endured in his country's bloody civil war--and he intends to keep it that way. Now, as enemies gather at his weakened borders, Nikolai must find a way to refill Ravka's coffers, forge new alliances, and stop a rising threat to the once-great Grisha Army. Yet with every day a dark magic within him grows stronger, threatening to destroy all he has built. With the help of a young monk and a legendary Grisha general, Nikolai will journey to the places in Ravka where the deepest magic survives to vanquish the terrible legacy inside him. He will risk everything to save his country and himself. But some secrets aren't meant to stay buried--and some wounds aren't meant to heal.

*The Fork, the Witch, and the Worm: Volume 1* by Christopher Paolini

It's been a year since Eragon departed Alagaësia in search of the perfect home to train a new generation of Dragon Riders. Now he is struggling with an endless sea of tasks: constructing a vast dragonhold, wrangling with suppliers, guarding dragon eggs and dealing with belligerent Urgals and haughty elves. Then a vision from the Eldunari, unexpected visitors and an exciting Urgal legend offer a much-needed distraction and a new perspective.

*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi

They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orisha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy.

*Slayer, Volume 1* by Kiersten White

Into every generation a Slayer is born... Nina and her twin sister, Artemis, are far from normal. It's hard to be when you grow up at the Watcher's Academy, which is a bit different from your average boarding school. Here teens are trained as guides for Slayers—girls gifted with supernatural strength to fight the forces of darkness. But while Nina's mother is a prominent member of the Watcher's Council, Nina has never embraced the violent Watcher lifestyle. Instead she follows her instincts to heal, carving out a place for herself as the school medic. Until the day Nina's life changes forever. Thanks to Buffy, the famous (and infamous) Slayer that Nina's father died protecting, Nina is not only the newest Chosen One—she's the last Slayer, ever. Period. As Nina hones her skills with her Watcher-in-training, Leo, there's plenty to keep her occupied: a monster fighting ring, a demon who eats happiness, a shadowy figure that keeps popping up in Nina's dreams... But it's not until bodies start turning up that Nina's new powers will truly be tested—because someone she loves might be next. One thing is clear: Being Chosen is easy. Making choices is hard.

*The Gilded Wolves* by Roshani Chokshi

No one believes in them. But soon no one will forget them. It's 1889. The city is on the cusp of industry and power, and the Exposition Universelle has breathed new life into the streets and dredged up ancient secrets. Here, no one keeps tabs on dark truths better than treasure-hunter and wealthy hotelier Séverin Montagnet-Alarie. When the elite, ever-powerful Order of Babel coerces him to help them on a mission, Séverin is offered a treasure that he never imagined: his true inheritance. To hunt down the ancient artifact the Order seeks, Séverin calls upon a band of unlikely experts: An engineer with a debt to pay. A historian banished from his home. A dancer with a sinister past. And a brother in arms if not blood. Together, they will join Séverin as he explores the dark, glittering heart of Paris. What they find might change the course of history--but only if they can stay alive.

## 2020

*Legacy and the Queen* by Annie Matthew

GAME. SET. MAGIC. Game – Tennis means life and death for the residents of the magical kingdom of Nova, and for twelve-year-old Legacy, it's the only thing getting her through the long days taking care of the other kids at the orphanage. That's all about to change when she hears about Silla's tournament. Set – Silla, the ruler of Nova, hosts an annual tournament for the less fortunate of her citizens to come and prove themselves and win entrance to the Academy, where they can train to compete at nationals. The prize is Silla's favor and enough cash to keep open the orphanage, and Legacy has her heart set on both. Magic – What Legacy has yet to know is that the other players have something besides better skills and more money than she does. In Nova, tennis can unlock magic. Magic that Silla used to save the kingdom long ago and magic that her competitors have been training in for months already. Now, with the world turned against her and the orphanage at stake, Legacy has to learn to use her passion for the game to rise above those around her and shine.

*Infinity Son* by Adam Silvera

Balancing epic and intensely personal stakes, bestselling author Adam Silvera's *Infinity Son* is a gritty, fast-paced adventure about two brothers caught up in a magical war generations in the making. Growing up in New York, brothers Emil and Brighton always idolized the Spell Walkers—a vigilante group sworn to rid the world of specters. While the Spell Walkers and other celestials are born with powers, specters take them, violently stealing the essence of endangered magical creatures. Brighton wishes he had a power so he could join the fray. Emil just wants the fighting to stop. The cycle of violence has taken a toll, making it harder for anyone with a power to live peacefully and openly. In this climate of fear, a gang of specters has been growing bolder by the day. Then, in a brawl after a protest, Emil manifests a power of his own—one that puts him right at the heart of the conflict and sets him up to be the heroic Spell Walker Brighton always wanted to be. Brotherhood, love, and loyalty will be put to the test, and no one will escape the fight unscathed.



*Serpent & Dove* by Shelby Mahurin

Bound as one to love, honor, or burn. Two years ago, Louise le Blanc fled her coven and took shelter in the city of Cesarine, forsaking all magic and living off whatever she could steal. There, witches like Lou are hunted. They are feared. And they are burned. Sworn to the Church as a Chasseur, Reid Diggory has lived his life by one principle: thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. His path was never meant to cross with Lou's, but a wicked stunt forces them into an impossible union—holy matrimony. The war between witches and Church is an ancient one, and Lou's most dangerous enemies bring a fate worse than fire. Unable to ignore her growing feelings, yet powerless to change what she is, a choice must be made. And love makes fools of us all.

*Girls of Paper and Fire* by Natasha Ngan

Each year, eight beautiful girls are chosen as Paper Girls to serve the king. It's the highest honor they could hope for...and the most demeaning. This year, there's a ninth. And instead of paper, she's made of fire. In this richly developed fantasy, Lei is a member of the Paper caste, the lowest and most persecuted class of people in Ikharā. She lives in a remote village with her father, where the decade-old trauma of watching her mother snatched by royal guards for an unknown fate still haunts her. Now, the guards are back and this time it's Lei they're after -- the girl with the golden eyes whose rumored beauty has piqued the king's interest. Over weeks of training in the opulent but oppressive palace, Lei and eight other girls learn the skills and charm that befit a king's consort. There, she does the unthinkable -- she falls in love. Her forbidden romance becomes enmeshed with an explosive plot that threatens her world's entire way of life. Lei, still the wide-eyed country girl at heart, must decide how far she's willing to go for justice and revenge.

*Cursed* by Thomas Wheeler

Whosoever wields the Sword of Power shall be the one true King. But what if the Sword has chosen a Queen? Nimue grew up an outcast. Her connection to dark magic made her something to be feared in her Druid village, and that made her desperate to leave... That is, until her entire village is slaughtered by Red Paladins, and Nimue's fate is forever altered. Charged by her dying mother to reunite an ancient sword with a legendary sorcerer, Nimue is now her people's only hope. Her mission leaves little room for revenge, but the growing power within her can think of little else. Nimue teams up with a charming mercenary named Arthur and refugee Fey Folk from across England. She wields a sword meant for the one true king, battling paladins and the armies of a corrupt king. She struggles to unite her people, avenge her family, and discover the truth about her destiny. But perhaps the one thing that can change Destiny itself is found at the edge of a blade.



## 2021

*Lore* by Alexandra Bracken

Every seven years, the Agon begins. As punishment for a past rebellion, nine Greek gods are forced to walk the earth as mortals, hunted by the descendants of ancient bloodlines, all eager to kill a god and seize their divine power and immortality. Long ago, Lore Perseus fled that brutal world in the wake of her family's sadistic murder by a rival line, turning her back on the hunt's promises of eternal glory. For years she's pushed away any thought of revenge against the man--now a god--responsible for their deaths. Yet as the next hunt dawns over New York City, two participants seek out her help: Castor, a childhood friend of Lore believed long dead, and a gravely wounded Athena, among the last of the original gods. The goddess offers an alliance against their mutual enemy and, at last, a way for Lore to leave the Agon behind forever. But Lore's decision to bind her fate to Athena's and rejoin the hunt will come at a deadly cost--and still may not be enough to stop the rise of a new god with the power to bring humanity to its knees.

*Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo

Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone. . . . A convict with a thirst for revenge. A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager. A runaway with a privileged past. A spy known as the Wraith. A Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums. A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.

*Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo

Surrounded by enemies, the once-great nation of Ravka has been torn in two by the Shadow Fold, a swath of near impenetrable darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh. Now its fate may rest on the shoulders of one lonely refugee. Alina Starkov has never been good at anything. But when her regiment is attacked on the Fold and her best friend is brutally injured, Alina reveals a dormant power that saves his life—a power that could be the key to setting her war-ravaged country free. Wrenched from everything she knows, Alina is whisked away to the royal court to be trained as a member of the Grisha, the magical elite led by the mysterious Darkling. Yet nothing in this lavish world is what it seems. With darkness looming and an entire kingdom depending on her untamed power, Alina will have to confront the secrets of the Grisha . . . and the secrets of her heart.

*Crave* by Tracy Wolff

My whole world changed when I stepped inside the academy. Nothing is right about this place or the other students in it. Here I am, a mere mortal among gods...or monsters. I still can't decide which of these warring factions I belong to, if I belong at all. I only know the one thing that unites them is their hatred of me. Then there's Jaxon Vega. A vampire with deadly secrets who hasn't felt anything for a hundred years. But there's something about him that calls to me, something broken in him that somehow fits with what's broken in me. Which could spell death for us all. Because Jaxon walled himself off for a reason. And now someone wants to wake a sleeping monster, and I'm wondering if I was brought here intentionally—as the bait.

*Throne of Glass* by Sarah J. Maas

After serving out a year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes, 18-year-old assassin Celaena Sardothien is dragged before the Crown Prince. Prince Dorian offers her her freedom on one condition: she must act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin. Her opponents are men-thieves and assassins and warriors from across the empire, each sponsored by a member of the king's council. If she beats her opponents in a series of eliminations, she'll serve the kingdom for four years and then be granted her freedom. Celaena finds her training sessions with the captain of the guard, Westfall, challenging and exhilarating. But she's bored stiff by court life. Things get a little more interesting when the prince starts to show interest in her ... but it's the gruff Captain Westfall who seems to understand her best. Then one of the other contestants turns up dead ... quickly followed by another. Can Celaena figure out who the killer is before she becomes a victim? As the young assassin investigates, her search leads her to discover a greater destiny than she could possibly have imagined.

# APPENDIX B

## Gendered Word List

Masculine Words		Feminine Words	
Active	1	Adorable	-1
Adventurous	1	Adore	-1
Aggression	1	Adored	-1
Aggressive	1	Adores	-1
Aggressiveness	1	Adoring	-1
Ambition	1	Affection	-1
Ambitions	1	Affectionate	-1
Ambitious	1	Affections	-1
Ambitiousness	1	Beauties	-1
Analysis	1	Beautiful	-1
Analytic	1	Beauty	-1
Analyze	1	Beloved	-1
Arm	1	Bond	-1
Armed	1	Bonded	-1
Armored	1	Bonding	-1
Assault	1	Bonds	-1
Assaulted	1	Care	-1
Assaulting	1	Cared	-1
Assaults	1	Cares	-1
Assert	1	Caring	-1
Assertive	1	Charm	-1
Assertiveness	1	Charmed	-1
Asserts	1	Charming	-1
Athletic	1	Charms	-1
Attack	1	Cheer	-1
Attacked	1	Cheered	-1
Attacking	1	Cheerful	-1
Attacks	1	Cheering	-1
Autonomous	1	Childish	-1
Autonomy	1	Comfort	-1
Avenge	1	Comforted	-1
Avenging	1	Comforting	-1
Boast	1	Comforts	-1
Boasted	1	Commit	-1
Boastful	1	Commits	-1
Boasting	1	Committed	-1
Boasts	1	Committing	-1
Brave	1	Communal	-1
Bravely	1	Communities	-1
Bravery	1	Community	-1
Braved	1	Compassion	-1
Braving	1	Compassionate	-1
Brutal	1	Connect	-1
Brutally	1	Connected	-1
Challenge	1	Connecting	-1
Challenged	1	Connection	-1
Challenges	1	Connections	-1
Challenging	1	Connects	-1
Command	1	Considerate	-1
Commanded	1	Considered	-1
Commanding	1	Considering	-1
Commands	1	Considers	-1
Compete	1	Delicate	-1
Competed	1	Depend	-1
Competes	1	Dependence	-1
Competing	1	Dependent	-1
Competitiveness	1	Depending	-1
Confidence	1	Depends	-1
Confident	1	Desire	-1
Conflict	1	Desired	-1
Conflicts	1	Desires	-1
Courage	1	Desiring	-1
Couragous	1	Devote	-1
Couragousness	1	Devoted	-1
Danger	1	Devotes	-1
Dangerous	1	Devoting	-1
Dangers	1	Domestic	-1
Deadly	1	Domesticity	-1
Decide	1	Dream	-1
Decided	1	Dreamed	-1
Decides	1	Dreaming	-1
Deciding	1	Dreams	-1
Decision	1	Dreamy	-1
Decisive	1	Embrace	-1
Demand	1	Embraced	-1
Demanded	1	Embraces	-1
Demanding	1	Embracing	-1
Demands	1	Emotion	-1
Destroy	1	Emotional	-1
Destroyed	1	Emotionally	-1
Destroying	1	Emotions	-1
Destroys	1	Empathetic	-1
Destruction	1	Empathize	-1
Destructive	1	Empathizes	-1
Determination	1	Empathy	-1

Impulsiveness	1	Invite	-1
Independence	1	Invited	-1
Independent	1	Invites	-1
Individual	1	Inviting	-1
Individualistic	1	Kind	-1
Intellect	1	Kindness	-1
Intellectual	1	Love	-1
Invade	1	Loved	-1
Invasive	1	Loving	-1
Investigate	1	Lovingly	-1
Investigated	1	Loyal	-1
Investigates	1	Loyalties	-1
Investigating	1	Loyalty	-1
Justice	1	Magical	-1
Lead	1	Maternal	-1
Leading	1	Modest	-1
Leads	1	Modesty	-1
Logic	1	Nurture	-1
Logical	1	Nurtured	-1
Manipulate	1	Nurtures	-1
Manipulating	1	Nurturing	-1
Manipulation	1	Passion	-1
Manipulative	1	Passionate	-1
Masculine	1	Pleasant	-1
Objective	1	Please	-1
Objectivity	1	Pleasing	-1
Opinion	1	Polite	-1
Opinionated	1	Politeness	-1
Opinions	1	Precious	-1
Outspoken	1	Pretty	-1
Outspokenness	1	Provocative	-1
Overthrew	1	Quiet	-1
Overthrow	1	Quieted	-1
Paternal	1	Relationship	-1
Persist	1	Relationships	-1
Persisted	1	Responsive	-1
Persisting	1	Responsiveness	-1
Power	1	Reunion	-1
Powered	1	Reunite	-1
Powerful	1	Reunited	-1
Powers	1	Reunites	-1
Protect	1	Reuniting	-1
Protected	1	Romance	-1

Determine	1	Ethereal	-1
Determined	1	Evocative	-1
Determines	1	Evoke	-1
Dertermining	1	Exquisite	-1
Devastate	1	Faith	-1
Devastated	1	Faithful	-1
Devastates	1	Fantasies	-1
Devastating	1	Fantasize	-1
Devastation	1	Fantasy	-1
Dominate	1	Feminine	-1
Dominated	1	Femininity	-1
Dominating	1	Forgave	-1
Dominates	1	Forgive	-1
Domination	1	Forgiveness	-1
Execute	1	Forgives	-1
Executed	1	Forgiving	-1
Executes	1	Forgiving	-1
Executing	1	Friendly	-1
Fierce	1	Gentle	-1
Fiercely	1	Gentleness	-1
Fight	1	Gorgeous	-1
Fighting	1	Grace	-1
Fights	1	Graceful	-1
Force	1	Heart	-1
Forced	1	Heartache	-1
Forceful	1	Heartbreak	-1
Forces	1	Heartbreaking	-1
Forcing	1	Heartbroken	-1
Fought	1	Heartfelt	-1
Greed	1	Heartwarming	-1
Greedy	1	Home	-1
Guard	1	Homey	-1
Guarded	1	Honest	-1
Guarding	1	Honesty	-1
Guards	1	Imagination	-1
Headstrong	1	Imaginative	-1
Hostile	1	Imagine	-1
Hostility	1	Imagined	-1
Hunt	1	Imagines	-1
Hunted	1	Infatuation	-1
Hunting	1	Interdependence	-1
Hunts	1	Interdependent	-1
Impulsive	1	Interpersonal	-1

Protecting	1	Romances	-1
Protective	1	Romantic	-1
Protects	1	Seduce	-1
Rebel	1	Seduced	-1
Rebellion	1	Seduces	-1
Rebels	1	Seducing	-1
Reckless	1	Seductive	-1
Recklessness	1	Sensitive	-1
Revenge	1	Sensitivity	-1
Risk	1	Sexiness	-1
Risks	1	Sexy	-1
Risky	1	Share	-1
Rival	1	Shared	-1
Rivalry	1	Shares	-1
Rivals	1	Sharing	-1
Self-confidence	1	Social	-1
Self-confident	1	Stunning	-1
Self-reliance	1	Submissive	-1
Self-reliant	1	Submissiveness	-1
Self-sufficiency	1	Submit	-1
Self-sufficient	1	Submits	-1
Skilled	1	Supported	-1
Skillful	1	Support	-1
Skillfulness	1	Supportive	-1
Stalk	1	Supportiveness	-1
Stalking	1	Supports	-1
Stalks	1	Surrender	-1
Stoic	1	Surrendered	-1
Strength	1	Surrendering	-1
Strengths	1	Surrenders	-1
Strong	1	Sweetly	-1
Stubborn	1	Sweetly	-1
Stubbornness	1	Sympathetic	-1
Superior	1	Sympathized	-1
Superiority	1	Sympathizes	-1
Suspense	1	Sympathy	-1
Threat	1	Tender	-1
Threaten	1	Together	-1
Threatening	1	Touching	-1
Threatens	1	Trust	-1
Threats	1	Trusted	-1
Torment	1	Trusting	-1
Tormenting	1	Trusts	-1

Torments	1	Understand	-1
Vengeance	1	Understanding	-1
Vicious	1	Unite	-1
Violence	1	United	-1
Violent	1	Unites	-1
Weapon	1	Warmth	-1
Weaponized	1	Warmth	-1

# APPENDIX C

## Gender Bias Coding

Title	Word Count	Male Bias	Female Bias	Gender Bias	Male Bias %	Female Bias %	Gender Bias %
Rick Riordan, The Lightning Thief	157	0	-1	-1	0%	-0.64%	-0.64%
James Patterson, Witch & Wizard	120	2	-2	0	1.67%	-1.67%	0.00%
Stephenie Meyer, Twilight	55	2	-3	-1	3.64%	-5.45%	-1.82%
Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games	165	1	-1	0	0.61%	-0.61%	0.00%
Lauren Kate, Fallen	110	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rick Riordan, The Heroes of Olympus,	272	2	-3	-1	0.74%	-1.10%	-0.37%
Rick Riordan, The Red Pyramid	204	1	-1	0	0.49%	-0.49%	0.00%
J. K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	223	5	-7	-2	2.24%	-3.14%	-0.90%
Ally Condie, Matched	67	1	-2	-1	1.49%	-2.99%	-1.49%
Pittacus Lore, I Am Number Four	144	5	-2	3	3.47%	-1.39%	2.08%
Ransom Riggs, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children	145	1	-4	-3	0.69%	-2.76%	-2.07%
Amanda Hocking, Switched	67	0	-1	-1	0.00%	-1.49%	-1.49%
James Dashner, The Maze Runner (Maze Runner)	90	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lois Lowry, The Giver	91	0	-2	-2	0.00%	-2.20%	-2.20%
Christopher Paolini, Eragon: Book I	144	2	0	2	1.39%	0.00%	1.39%
J. R. R. Tolkien, The Hobbit: or There and Back Again	52	0	-1	-1	0.00%	-1.92%	-1.92%
Veronica Roth, Divergent	214	8	-5	3	3.74%	-2.34%	1.40%
Kami Garcia, Beautiful Creatures	114	2	-3	-1	1.75%	-2.63%	-0.88%
Cassandra Clare, City of Bones	170	3	-1	2	1.76%	-0.59%	1.18%
Madeleine L'engle, A Wrinkle In Time	47	2	0	2	4.26%	0.00%	4.26%
Richelle Mead, Vampire Academy	171	9	-1	8	5.26%	-0.58%	4.68%
Brandon Mull, Spirit Animals: Book 1: Wolf	122	2	-1	1	1.64%	-0.82%	0.82%
Marie Lu, Legend	153	1	-2	-1	0.65%	-1.31%	-0.65%
Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game	248	6	-1	5	2.42%	-0.40%	2.02%
Cassandra Clare, Clockwork Angel	128	4	-2	2	3.13%	-1.56%	1.56%
Clare Cassandra, The Bane Chronicles	52	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Madeleine Roux, Asylum	160	1	-1	0	0.63%	-0.63%	0.00%
Joseph Delaney, The Last Apprentice: The End of the Line	71	2	0	2	2.82%	0.00%	2.82%
Amanda Hocking, Frostfire: the Kanin Chronicles	115	4	-3	1	3.48%	-2.61%	0.87%
Marissa Meyer, Cinder: Book One of the Lunar Chronicles	111	2	-1	1	1.80%	-0.90%	0.90%
Rick Yancey, The 5th Wave	126	0	-3	-3	0.00%	-2.38%	-2.38%
Rick Riordan, The Sword of Summer	171	2	-2	0	1.17%	-1.17%	0.00%
Victoria Aveyard, Red Queen	163	7	-1	6	4.29%	-0.61%	3.68%
Kiera Cass, The Siren	156	3	-4	-1	1.92%	-2.56%	-0.64%
Claudia Gray, Journey to Star Wars: the Force Awakens	122	3	-2	1	2.46%	-1.64%	0.82%
Marissa Meyer, Heartless	152	2	-5	-3	1.32%	-3.29%	-1.97%
Patrick Ness, A Monster Calls: Inspired by the Celtic Myth of the Shapeless	63	2	-1	1	3.17%	-1.59%	1.59%
E. K. Johnston, Star Wars: Ahsoka	93	7	-1	6	7.53%	-1.08%	6.45%
Kendare Blake, Three Dark Crowns	139	4	0	4	2.88%	0.00%	2.88%
Neal Shusterman, Scythe, Volume 1	86	1	0	1	1.16%	0.00%	1.16%
Holly Black, The Cruel Prince	177	4	-2	2	2.26%	-1.13%	1.13%
David Levithan, Every Day	106	0	-1	-1	0.00%	-0.94%	-0.94%
Sara Holland, Everless	155	5	-2	3	3.23%	-1.29%	1.94%
Philip Pullman, The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage	185	3	-1	2	1.62%	-0.54%	1.08%
Kerri Maniscalco, Stalking Jack the Ripper	90	2	-1	1	2.22%	-1.11%	1.11%
Christopher Paolini, The Fork, the Witch, and the Wolf	71	1	-1	0	1.41%	-1.41%	0.00%
Leigh Bardugo, King of Scars	143	6	0	6	4.20%	0.00%	4.20%
Tomi Adeyemi, Children of Blood and Bone	141	3	0	3	2.13%	0.00%	2.13%
Kiersten White, Slayer, Volume 1	195	8	-3	5	4.10%	-1.54%	2.56%
Roshani Chokshi, The Gilded Wolves	156	5	-4	1	3.21%	-2.56%	0.64%
Annie Matthew, Legacy and the Queer Girl	194	3	-4	-1	1.55%	-2.06%	-0.52%
Adam Silvera, Infinity Son	188	9	-5	4	4.79%	-2.66%	2.13%

Adam Silvera, Infinity Son	188	9	-5	4	4.79%	-2.66%	2.13%
Shelby Mahurin, Serpent & Dove	138	3	-2	1	2.17%	-1.45%	0.72%
Natasha Ngan, Girls of Paper and Fire	187	7	-7	0	3.74%	-3.74%	0.00%
Thomas Wheeler, Cursed	173	5	-4	1	2.89%	-2.31%	0.58%
Alexandra Bracken, Lore	190	13	0	13	6.84%	0.00%	6.84%
Leigh Bardugo, Six of Crows	116	3	-1	2	2.59%	-0.86%	1.72%
Leigh Bardugo, Shadow and Bone	156	5	-2	3	3.21%	-1.28%	1.92%
Tracy Wolff, Crave	135	2	-1	1	1.48%	-0.74%	0.74%
Sarah J. Maas, Throne of Glass	190	5	-2	3	2.63%	-1.05%	1.58%
	<b>Word Count</b>	<b>Male Bias</b>	<b>Female Bias</b>	<b>Gender Bias</b>	<b>Male Bias %</b>	<b>Female Bias %</b>	<b>Gender Bias %</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	8339	191	-113	78	2.29%	-1.36%	0.94%
<b>Word Frequency Results</b>	<b>Word Count</b>	<b>Male Bias</b>	<b>Female Bias</b>	<b>Gender Bias</b>	<b>Male Bias %</b>	<b>Female Bias %</b>	<b>Gender Bias %</b>
	45	2	-3	-1	4.44%	-6.67%	-2.22%